

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 29-58 are pending. Claims 29, 31, 32, 36, 44, 49 and 53 are amended. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that claims 31, 32, 49-51 and 53-57 recite allowable subject matter, such that the objected to claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, claims 31, 32, 49 and 53 are so-amended. Claims 50, 51 and 54-57 depend from these independent claims. Therefore, the allowance of claims 31, 32, 49-51 and 53-57 is requested.

In the Office Action claims 29, 30, 33-48 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,297,378 to Smith. It is requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 29, is directed to an agricultural machine including a carrying vehicle and plural work units configured to cut a standing product, the work units being connected to the carrying vehicle. Specifically, independent claim 29 recites at least two front work units arranged, during work and viewed in a direction of forward travel of the carrying vehicle, at a front of the carrying vehicle, and at least two lateral work units arranged, during work, on either side and outside of a work area of the front work units. The front work units and the lateral work units are configured to be moved with respect to the carrying vehicle so as to occupy a transport position or a work position.

The claimed invention can provide numerous advantages. By way of specific non-limiting examples, the agricultural machine is able to cut more product because the at least two lateral work units are arranged on either side and outside of the work area of the front work units during work, as compared to a machine in which lateral work units are disposed inside a front work area.

Smith is directed to reel mowers. As shown in Figure 1, for example, of Smith, lateral reel mower cutting units 36 are disposed inside of a work area of front reel mower cutting units 36. Thus, Smith does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of at least two lateral work units arranged, during work, on either side and outside of a work area of front work units, as recited in independent claim 29. Rather, the disclosure of Smith is directly opposite to the claimed features recited in independent claim 29, and therefore Smith does not provide the above discussed advantages provided by the present invention as recited in the claims.

Further, in Smith the lateral reel mower cutting units 36 are at least partially disposed under the reel mower vehicle during work. Thus, the lateral reel mower cutting units 36 are less visible during work, and it is more difficult to confirm the positions of the lateral reel mower cutting units 36 during transport. These disadvantages are avoided by the claimed invention, in which the lateral work units are arranged on either side and outside of the work area of the front work units during work, such that the work positions of the lateral work units are easily ascertained.

For these reasons it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 29 be withdrawn, and that independent claim 29 be allowed.

Claims 30, 33-48 and 52 are allowable for the same reasons as independent claim 29 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. The allowance of dependent claims 30, 33-48 and 52 is therefore requested.

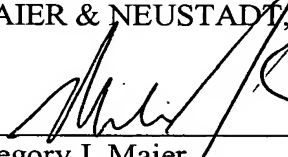
Application No. 10/506,675  
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2005

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Philip J. Hoffmann  
Registration No. 46,340

I:\ATTY\PHI\258372US\AMENDMENT\_12202005.DOC